

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, 18 February 2020 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Axam, Crookes (Chairman), Davies, Dorn, Farmer, Harward (substitute Drage), Lamb, Makepeace-Browne (from 8.11 pm), Smith, Wildsmith, Worlock

In Attendance: Forster, Neighbour, Radley, Southern

Officers:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
John Elson	Head of Environment and Technical Services
Gill Chapman	Committee Services
Dana Kavanagh	Capita (for item 115)
Ken Trotter	Capita (for item 115)

108 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 21 January 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Drage, substituted by Councillor Harward.

110 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that the confidential agenda item (Minute 123 below) would be taken first, and the meeting moved to exclude the public at this point.

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

112 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

113 SERVICE PERFORMANCE - HEADS OF SERVICE ATTENDANCE

The Head of Environment and Technical Services, John Elson, attended to discuss service performance.

Questions were asked around the Service Plan, KPIs and budgeting. Issues considered included the green corridor, joint waste team review, textiles recycling, consultation with parishes, parking charges and the traffic management plan. After requests, Mr Elson agreed to circulate details of parking income, and figures on cardboard recycling when available.

114 CRIME AND DISORDER JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 16 December 2019 were noted.

Councillor Makepeace-Browne entered the meeting during this item.

115 2019-20 BUDGET MONITORING – TO END OF DECEMBER

The Committee were advised of the position on revenue and capital expenditure at the end of December 2019. Cabinet would consider this report at its meeting on 5 March 2020. It was noted that £631k is forecast to be returned.

Members discussed:

- The nature, background and interrelationship between the £631k return to reserves and its relationship to the original new settlement budget
- Income from (mainly major) planning applications down in light of oncoming local plan, also relates to building control income
- Savings across a number of services
- Challenges next year
- Fleet pond capital project now included in a bigger project
- Planning appeals - substantial costs that cannot be planned for

DECISION

- 1 The revised projections and reasons for the main revenue variations, highlighted in Paragraph 4 and analysed in Appendix 1, be noted.
- 2 The current spending position for Capital shown, in Paragraph 5 and Appendix 2 which includes project details, be noted.

116 LOCAL DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEF SCHEME 2019/20

The Committee looked to determine the Local Discretionary Relief Scheme for 2019/20.

Members considered the issues around this scheme. It was confirmed that next year would be the final year, and that businesses are notified and it is then up to them to claim.

DECISION – Recommendation to Cabinet

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Local Discretionary Relief Scheme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 3, be approved.

I 17 COMMUNITY GARDEN AT EDENBROOK COUNTRY PARK

Members considered the delivery of a Community Garden initiative at Edenbrook Country Park prior to the proposal being considered at Cabinet.

Members considered:

- The Community Garden ethos
- A different approach and facility not available elsewhere in the district
- The sections - allotments area allocated, garden, storage
- Publicity and Consultation with residents and potential allotment holders
- Running/maintenance costs
- HVA management
- Opportunities for anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping etc

The Committee agreed that, whilst supporting the proposals, more clarity on the community garden was needed, particularly with regard to the merits of the Community Garden approach as an alternative to allotments. Members suggested that Cabinet consider the potential for anti-social behaviour and that Cabinet request HVA and the Countryside Manager to attend the next Cabinet meeting to clarify the points around the approach of the Community Garden, and the management of the project generally.

DECISION

That the proposed Community Garden initiative at Edenbrook Country Park be supported, with the opportunity for further clarification at Cabinet.

Councillor Harward left the meeting and returned during this item.

I 18 RIPA POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Committee received the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office Inspection Report into the Council's use of powers under Part II of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016, and considered the draft revised RIPA Policy and Procedures.

Members considered the report and and the RIPA Policy and procedures.

DECISION

- 1 The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office Inspection Report be noted.
- 2 The revised RIPA Policy and Procedures be approved.

I 19 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION - 2019/20

The Committee were updated on the Council's performance indicator results for the third quarter of 2019/20 (1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019).

Members asked for clarification on:

- RB06 – check the target council tax collected
- H17 - Only 1 incident - accuracy of data to be checked
- R13 - Fly tipping - number of complaints referred to pursuing the potentially identified wrongdoers. Members asked for the recorded number of incidents of fly tipping (via street care)

DECISION

That the information be noted.

*Councillor Lamb left and reentered the meeting during this item.
Councillor Axam left the meeting during this item.*

120 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered.

121 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was considered:

Commercialisation project review would inform the meeting how the process is working, and would subsequently receive reports on projects that are closed
Corporate Peer Review – new dates could be pushed back
Head of Place would report on Economic Development when he attended Committee in April for a service update

122 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The following item contained exempt information.

Members decided that the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

DECISION

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to, on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

I23 FIVE COUNCILS CORPORATE SERVICES CONTRACTS

Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the current position with regard to the contract for corporate services entered into with the Five Councils' Partnership. This report had been considered by Cabinet at its February meeting.

Members endorsed the February Cabinet's decision.

Members agreed to move back into open session.

This report was Confidential.

The meeting closed at 9.33 pm